# IBM Research Report 

# Difference Triangle Set Constructions 

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# Difference Triangle Set Constructions 

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#### Abstract

We review difference triangle set constructions by Robinson and Bernstein [2], Kløve [1], Ling [3] and Chen, Fan and Jin [4]. We find extensions and improvements allowing us to construct some difference triangle sets of smaller size than the best previously known.


Keywords. Difference Triangle Set, construction.
AMS Subject Classification. 05B99

Following Kløve [1], an ( $n, k$ ) difference triangle set, $T$, is a set of integers, $\left\{a_{i j} \mid 1 \leq\right.$ $i \leq n, 0 \leq j \leq k\}$, such that all of the differences, $\left\{a_{i \ell}-a_{i j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, 0 \leq \ell \neq j \leq\right.$ $k\}$, are distinct. Let $m=m(T)$ be the maximum difference. We are interested in constructing $(n, k)$ difference triangle sets, $T$, with $m(T)$ as small as impossible. Let $M(n, k)=\min \{m(T) \mid T$ is an $(n, k)$ difference triangle set $\}$. In this paper we review earlier constructions ([2],[1],[3],[4]) and show how they can be improved and extended.

An important special case occurs when $n=1$. A $k$ mark Golomb ruler may be defined as a set of integers, $\left\{a_{i} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k\right\}$, with $0=a_{1}<a_{2}<\ldots<a_{k}$ such that all of the differences $\left\{a_{j}-a_{i} \mid 1 \leq i<j \leq n\right\}$ are distinct. $a_{k}$ is the length of the ruler. Clearly $k$ mark Golomb rulers correspond to ( $1, k-1$ ) difference triangle sets. More generally ( $n, k-1$ ) difference triangle sets correspond to collections of $n k$ mark Golomb rulers with no common differences.

The constructions we will study are based on the modular version of Golomb rulers. We say a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler is a set of integer residues modulo v $\left\{a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{k}\right\}$ such that all of the differences $\left\{a_{i}-a_{j} \mid 1 \leq i \neq j \leq k\right\}$ are distinct and nonzero modulo $v$. We will generally assume the residues are chosen from the set $\{0,1, \ldots, v-1\}$.

Generally we are interested in dense modular Golomb rulers. So for fixed $k$ we want $v$ as small as possible. Note by simple counting $v \geq k(k-1)+1$.

Singer [5] showed that for every prime power $q$ there is a $\left(q^{2}+q+1, q+1\right)$ modular Golomb ruler.

Bose [6] showed that for every prime power $q$ there is a $\left(q^{2}-1, q\right)$ modular Golomb ruler. The missing differences are the $q-1$ multiples of $q+1$.

Ruzca [7] showed for every prime $p$ there is a $\left(p^{2}-p, p-1\right)$ modular Golomb ruler. The missing differences are the $2 p-2$ multiples of $p$ or $p-1$.

The first few examples of each of these constructions are listed in tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Singer Construction

| $q$ | $v$ | $k$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 0 |  | 1 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 13 | 4 | 0 |  | 1 | 4 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 21 | 5 | 0 |  | 2 | 7 | 8 | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 31 | 6 | 0 |  | 1 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | 57 | 8 | 0 |  | 4 | 5 | 17 | 19 | 25 | 28 | 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | 73 | 9 | 0 |  | 2 | 10 | 24 | 25 | 29 | 36 | 42 | 45 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | 91 | 10 | 0 |  | 1 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 26 | 34 | 41 | 53 | 55 |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 133 | 12 | 0 |  | 2 | 6 | 24 | 29 | 40 | 43 | 55 | 68 | 75 | 76 | 85 |  |  |
| 13 | 183 | 14 | 0 |  | 4 | 6 | 20 | 35 | 52 | 59 | 77 | 78 | 86 | 89 | 99 | 122 | 127 |

Table 2: Bose Construction

| $q$ | $v$ | $k$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | 8 | 3 | 0 |  | 1 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 15 | 4 | 0 |  | 1 | 3 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 24 | 5 | 0 |  | 1 | 4 | 9 | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | 48 | 7 | 0 |  | 5 | 7 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 28 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | 63 | 8 | 0 |  | 2 | 8 | 21 | 22 | 25 | 32 | 37 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | 80 | 9 | 0 |  | 1 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 25 | 39 | 44 | 47 |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 120 | 11 | 0 |  | 1 | 4 | 9 | 23 | 30 | 41 | 43 | 58 | 68 | 74 |  |  |
| 13 | 168 | 13 | 0 |  | 3 | 11 | 38 | 40 | 47 | 62 | 72 | 88 | 92 | 93 | 105 | 111 |

If $\left\{a_{1}, \ldots, a_{k}\right\}$ is a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler and $m$ and $b$ are integers with $m$ relatively prime to $v$ then $\left\{m a_{1}+b, \ldots, m a_{k}+b\right\}$ (where the arithmetic is modulo $v)$ is also a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler. So the above constructions can be put into alternative forms.

Let $\left\{a_{1}<a_{2}<\ldots<a_{k}\right\}$ be a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler. Then $\left\{\left(a_{1}-a_{1}\right)<\right.$ $\left.\left(a_{2}-a_{1}\right)<\ldots<\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right)\right\}$ is also a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler. So we may assume $a_{1}=0$. Then $\left\{0=a_{1}<a_{2}<\ldots<a_{k}\right\}$ is a $k$ mark Golomb ruler since if the differences are distinct modulo $v$ they are also distinct as integers. Note we can add $v$ to obtain a $(k+1)$ mark Golomb ruler or we can shorten the ruler by deleting some

Table 3: Ruzca Construction

| $q$ | $v$ | $k$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | 42 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 110 | 10 | 0 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 25 | 31 | 52 | 54 | 59 | 78 |  |  |  |
| 13 | 156 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 18 | 32 | 38 | 43 | 59 | 89 | 93 | 112 |  |

marks. Furthermore Golomb rulers can be pulled apart to obtain difference triangle sets. Let $a_{11}<\ldots<a_{1 h} \leq a_{21}<\ldots<a_{2 h} \leq \ldots \leq a_{l 1}<\ldots<a_{l h}$ be a collection of $l$ subsequences of length $h$ (possibly sharing endpoints only) of a Golomb ruler. Then $\left\{\left(a_{i j}-a_{i 1}\right) \mid 1 \leq i \leq l, 1 \leq j \leq h\right\}$ is a $(l, h-1)$ difference triangle set.

Robinson and Bernstein [2] used the above idea to construct $(n, k)$ difference triangle sets for certain small values of $n$ and $k$ starting with the Singer construction. Atkinson and Hassenklover noted [8] that in some cases using the Bose construction produces better results. Kløve [1] (tables II and III) gave extensive tables of the sizes of the best difference triangle sets that can be obtained in this way. This requires a computer search to determine the best choices for the form of the modular Golomb ruler construction and the way it is pulled apart into a difference triangle set. Apparently there was an error in Kløve's program as I was able to find smaller difference triangle sets in some cases (some of these are near the edges of Kløve's table and are explained as derived from larger modular Golomb rulers than he considered but others can not be explained in this way). Table 4 lists the parameters in Kløve's table II for which I found better constructions for $(I, J)$ difference triangle sets with the above method and the respective sizes. Note even these improved constructions may not be the best known. This idea can also be used with the Ruzca construction but it does not produce any improvements for these parameters.

Ling [3] found another way to construct difference triangle sets from modular Golomb rulers. Suppose we have a $(v, k)$ modular Golomb ruler, $X=\left\{a_{1}<a_{2}<\ldots<\right.$ $\left.a_{k}\right\}$. Let $v=p w$. Then we may split $X$ into $p$ modular Golomb rulers $\left\{X_{1}, \ldots, X_{p}\right\}$ depending on which residue class modulo $p$ the elements of $X$ lie in. Let $X_{i}=$ $\left\{a_{i 1}<\ldots<a_{i k_{i}}\right\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq p$. Since the elements of $X_{i}$ are congruent modulo $p$ this means the differences will all be divisible by p. Hence we may define $\left\{Y_{1}, \ldots, Y_{p}\right\}$ where $Y_{i}=\left\{\left(a_{i 1}-a_{i 1}\right) / p<\ldots<\left(a_{i k_{i}}-a_{i 1}\right) / p\right\}=\left\{0=b_{i 1}<\ldots<b_{i k_{i}}\right\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq p$. Clearly $Y_{i}$ is a $\left(w, k_{i}\right)$ modular Golomb ruler and the differences for all the $\left\{Y_{i}\right\}$ are disjoint. So if $h \leq \min \left\{k_{i}\right\}$ then $\left\{b_{i j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq h\right\}$ is a ( $k, h-1$ ) difference triangle set. Again a computer program can find the best difference triangle sets that can be constructed in this way. Note this construction will work best when the residue classes modulo $p$ are equal (or nearly equal) in size so that $h$ is as large as possible. Ling applied his method to the Bose modular Golomb ruler construction

Table 4: Improvements on Kløve Table II

| $I$ | $J$ | Shearer | Kløve | $I$ | $J$ | Shearer | Kløve |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 23 | 919 | 921 | 6 | 40 | 9408 | 9416 |
| 2 | 40 | 2889 | 2928 | 6 | 41 | 9822 | 10005 |
| 2 | 44 | 3521 | 3526 | 7 | 6 | 235 | 242 |
| 2 | 49 | 4377 | 4420 | 7 | 13 | 1124 | 1138 |
| 3 | 8 | 164 | 166 | 7 | 19 | 2474 | 2486 |
| 3 | 24 | 1549 | 1551 | 7 | 23 | 3608 | 3621 |
| 3 | 36 | 3588 | 3589 | 7 | 32 | 7089 | 7112 |
| 3 | 43 | 5145 | 5217 | 7 | 35 | 8415 | 8508 |
| 3 | 46 | 5990 | 6017 | 8 | 12 | 1095 | 1124 |
| 4 | 34 | 4419 | 4444 | 8 | 29 | 6641 | 6691 |
| 4 | 42 | 6678 | 6751 | 8 | 30 | 6945 | 7074 |
| 4 | 47 | 8358 | 8386 | 8 | 31 | 7457 | 7826 |
| 4 | 49 | 9226 | 9283 | 9 | 5 | 216 | 220 |
| 5 | 9 | 376 | 379 | 9 | 11 | 1052 | 1068 |
| 5 | 16 | 1191 | 1210 | 9 | 14 | 1745 | 1748 |
| 5 | 49 | 11654 | 11723 | 9 | 27 | 6551 | 6677 |
| 5 | 50 | 12016 | 12316 | 10 | 5 | 241 | 246 |
| 6 | 9 | 458 | 462 | 10 | 19 | 3635 | 3656 |
| 6 | 32 | 5871 | 5977 | 10 | 24 | 5667 | 5820 |
| 6 | 36 | 7569 | 7606 | 10 | 25 | 6264 | 6493 |

only. The method does not work very well starting with the Singer construction because $v=p^{2}+p+1$ has fewer small factors and when $v$ does have small factors the residue classes tend to have unequal sizes. However the method does work well starting with the Ruzca construction.

For example use the Ruzca construction with $p=97$ to construct the following modular Golomb ruler with 96 elements mod 9312.

| 140 | 265 | 559 | 799 | 842 | 1018 | 1047 | 1057 | 1308 | 1390 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1511 | 1547 | 1790 | 1791 | 1797 | 1863 | 1997 | 2067 | 2147 | 2265 |
| 2312 | 2514 | 2657 | 2677 | 2701 | 2848 | 2878 | 3100 | 3171 | 3475 |
| 3740 | 3793 | 3878 | 3896 | 4062 | 4137 | 4244 | 4292 | 4304 | 4354 |
| 4440 | 4443 | 4456 | 4477 | 4752 | 4867 | 4872 | 4912 | 4980 | 4989 |
| 5081 | 5138 | 5169 | 5243 | 5297 | 5451 | 5515 | 5578 | 5582 | 5634 |
| 5676 | 5775 | 5802 | 5813 | 5889 | 5908 | 6414 | 6431 | 6560 | 6660 |
| 6898 | 6933 | 6988 | 7002 | 7302 | 7343 | 7351 | 7483 | 7529 | 7607 |
| 7830 | 7960 | 7975 | 8150 | 8285 | 8397 | 8836 | 8858 | 9046 | 9125 |
| 9157 | 9190 | 9216 | 9218 | 9241 | 9299 |  |  |  |  |

Multiply by $13 \bmod 9312$ and reorder.

| 80 | 166 | 579 | 730 | 869 | 930 | 1019 | 1048 | 1073 | 1075 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1243 | 1472 | 1487 | 1509 | 1610 | 1634 | 1806 | 1820 | 1848 | 1887 |
| 2013 | 2056 | 2060 | 2061 | 2120 | 2308 | 2329 | 2339 | 2443 | 2749 |
| 2772 | 2975 | 3052 | 3124 | 3410 | 3445 | 3518 | 3677 | 3854 | 3922 |
| 3975 | 4088 | 4159 | 4299 | 4429 | 4646 | 4659 | 4737 | 4746 | 4757 |
| 5273 | 5595 | 5679 | 5771 | 5854 | 5866 | 5904 | 6246 | 6321 | 6511 |
| 6605 | 6729 | 6865 | 6881 | 7036 | 7177 | 7218 | 7221 | 7267 | 7297 |
| 7330 | 7337 | 7382 | 7399 | 7464 | 7692 | 7726 | 7927 | 7984 | 8058 |
| 8064 | 8090 | 8247 | 8389 | 8604 | 8612 | 8670 | 8758 | 8868 | 8886 |
| 8985 | 9088 | 9107 | 9143 | 9236 | 9287 |  |  |  |  |

Separate into residue classes mod 6.

| 930 | 1806 | 1848 | 2772 | 4746 | 5904 | 6246 | 7218 | 7464 | 7692 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8058 | 8064 | 8604 | 8670 | 8868 | 8886 |  |  |  |  |
| 1075 | 1243 | 2329 | 2443 | 2749 | 3445 | 4159 | 4429 | 6511 | 6865 |
| 7177 | 7267 | 7297 | 7399 | 7927 | 8389 |  |  |  |  |
| 80 | 1472 | 1610 | 1634 | 1820 | 2060 | 2120 | 3410 | 3518 | 3854 |
| 4088 | 4646 | 7382 | 8090 | 8612 | 9236 |  |  |  |  |
| 579 | 1509 | 1887 | 2013 | 2061 | 3975 | 4299 | 4659 | 4737 | 5595 |
| 5679 | 6321 | 6729 | 7221 | 8247 | 8985 |  |  |  |  |
| 166 | 730 | 1048 | 2056 | 2308 | 3052 | 3124 | 3922 | 5854 | 5866 |
| 7036 | 7330 | 7726 | 7984 | 8758 | 9088 |  |  |  |  |
| 869 | 1019 | 1073 | 1487 | 2339 | 2975 | 3677 | 4757 | 5273 | 5771 |
| 6605 | 6881 | 7337 | 9107 | 9143 | 9287 |  |  |  |  |

Translate each residue class to include 0 and then divide the elements by 6 . Now all the differences (positive and negative within each class) are distinct mod 1552 .

| 0 | 146 | 153 | 307 | 636 | 829 | 886 | 1048 | 1089 | 1127 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1188 | 1189 | 1279 | 1290 | 1323 | 1326 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 28 | 209 | 228 | 279 | 395 | 514 | 559 | 906 | 965 |
| 1017 | 1032 | 1037 | 1054 | 1142 | 1219 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 232 | 255 | 259 | 290 | 330 | 340 | 555 | 573 | 629 |
| 668 | 761 | 1217 | 1335 | 1422 | 1526 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 155 | 218 | 239 | 247 | 566 | 620 | 680 | 693 | 836 |
| 850 | 957 | 1025 | 1107 | 1278 | 1401 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 94 | 147 | 315 | 357 | 481 | 493 | 626 | 948 | 950 |
| 1145 | 1194 | 1260 | 1303 | 1432 | 1487 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 25 | 34 | 103 | 245 | 351 | 468 | 648 | 734 | 817 |
| 956 | 1002 | 1078 | 1373 | 1379 | 1403 |  |  |  |  |

Rotate the classes mod 1552 so that the largest gap is at the end.

| 0 | 193 | 250 | 412 | 453 | 491 | 552 | 553 | 643 | 654 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 687 | 690 | 916 | 1062 | 1069 | 1223 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 59 | 111 | 126 | 131 | 148 | 236 | 313 | 646 | 674 |
| 855 | 874 | 925 | 1041 | 1160 | 1205 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 118 | 205 | 309 | 335 | 567 | 590 | 594 | 625 | 665 |
| 675 | 890 | 908 | 964 | 1003 | 1096 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 54 | 114 | 127 | 270 | 284 | 391 | 459 | 541 | 712 |
| 835 | 986 | 1141 | 1204 | 1225 | 1233 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 2 | 197 | 246 | 312 | 355 | 484 | 539 | 604 | 698 |
| 751 | 919 | 961 | 1085 | 1097 | 1230 |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 6 | 30 | 179 | 204 | 213 | 282 | 424 | 530 | 647 |
| 827 | 913 | 996 | 1135 | 1181 | 1257 |  |  |  |  |

The classes now form (considered as integers) a $(6,15)$ difference triangle set with maximum difference 1257 . Hence $M(6,15) \leq 1257$.

Table 5 shows bounds on $M(I, J)$ found similarly.

Table 5: Upper bounds from Ling idea applied to Ruzca construction

| $p$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $p$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 97 | 6 | 15 | 1257 | 151 | 10 | 14 | 1879 |
| 113 | 7 | 15 | 1492 | 181 | 12 | 14 | 2272 |
| 113 | 8 | 13 | 1318 | 193 | 12 | 15 | 2627 |
| 127 | 9 | 13 | 1430 |  |  |  |  |

Note since in the above example the original modular Golomb ruler did not have differences that are multiples of 96 this difference triangle set does not have any differences that are multiples of 16 . This means we can add 16 times a Golomb ruler with 16 marks to the difference triangle set obtaining a $(7,15)$ difference triangle set. This is not interesting in this example as the enlarged difference triangle set will have a maximum difference of at least $16^{*} 177=2832$. However in some cases it is. For example Ling [5] used the Bose construction (with $p=223$ ) to find a $(14,14)$ difference triangle set with maximum difference 2630 (showing $M(14,14) \leq 2630$ ). It turns out this difference triangle set has no differences which are multiples of 16 . Thus we can add to it 16 times a 15 mark Golomb ruler. The smallest such ruler has length 151 so the multiple has length $16^{*} 151=2416$. So we now have $M(15,14) \leq$ 2630. Furthermore we can reoptimize the $(14,14)$ difference triangle set assuming we will replace one of the rulers with the multiple of the Golomb ruler obtaining $M(14,14) \leq 2595$. Similarly the $M(12,14) \leq 2272$ bound above leads to the bound
$M(13,14) \leq 2272$ and the improved bound $M(12,14) \leq 2265$ by adding 15 times the 15 mark Golomb ruler with length 151.

The above difference triangle set constructions are based on pulling apart a modular Golomb ruler. We can also build up difference triangle sets from a modular Golomb ruler. The following constructions are based on and extend a construction in [4]. We say an $n$ by $m$ integer matrix $A$ has property $S$ if $\left(a_{i k}-a_{i l}\right) \neq\left(a_{j k}-a_{j l}\right)$ for all $1 \leq i<j \leq n$ and $1 \leq k<l \leq m$. Let $B=\left\{b_{1}, \ldots, b_{m}\right\}$ be a $(v, m)$ modular Golomb ruler. Let $c_{i j}=b_{j}+v \times a_{i j}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $1 \leq j \leq m$. We claim the $c_{i j}$ form a $(n, m-1)$ difference triangle set, $C$. For suppose $\left(c_{i k_{1}}-c_{i l_{1}}\right)=\left(c_{j k_{2}}-c_{j l_{2}}\right)$. Then $\left(b_{k_{1}}-b_{l_{1}}\right)+v \times\left(a_{i k_{1}}-a_{i l_{1}}\right)=\left(b_{k_{2}}-b_{l_{2}}\right)+v \times\left(a_{j k_{2}}-a_{j l_{2}}\right)$ Since $B$ is a modular Golomb ruler we must have $k_{1}=k_{2}=k$ and $l_{1}=l_{2}=l$. So $\left(a_{i k}-a_{i l}\right) \times v=\left(a_{j k}-a_{j l}\right) \times v$ or dividing by $\mathrm{v}\left(a_{i k}-a_{i l}\right)=\left(a_{j k}-a_{j l}\right)$ Since $A$ has property $S$ this is a contradiction.

Note if the modular Golomb rulers are from the Bose or Ruzca constructions the difference triangle sets constructed above will not contain any differences which are multiples of $q+1$ (Bose) or $p$ or $p-1$ (Ruzca). These difference triangle sets can be extended by adding suitable multiples of Golomb rulers.

Matrices $A$ with property $S$ can be generated as follows. Let $p$ be a prime. Let $A=\left\{a_{i j} \equiv(i-1) \times(j-1) \bmod p \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq p\right\}$ Then $A$ is a $p$ by $p$ matrix with property $S$. For $\left(\left(a_{i k}-a_{i l}\right)-\left(a_{j k}-a_{j l}\right)\right) \equiv(i-j) \times(k-l) \bmod p$ which is $\neq 0$ unless $i=j$ or $k=l$. Furthermore we can add constants to any row or column of $A$ modulo $p$ or permute the rows and columns of $A$ and $A$ will still have property $S$. Finally any submatrix of $A$ will also have property $S$. In this way a large number of matrices with property $S$ can be generated.

Next we discuss how to heuristically choose matrices with property $S$ which will work well in the above construction for difference triangle sets. We will assume the elements of the modular Golomb ruler have been sorted in increasing order. And we will assume $A$ is chosen so that the minimum element in each row is 0 . Then the maximum difference from that row will be between the positions of the rightmost maximum sized element in that row and the leftmost 0 in that row. So it will generally be better if the size of maximum element in $A$ is as small as possible, and if the number of pairs consisting of 0 and an element of maximum size in the same row is as small as possible and if the columns of $A$ have been permuted so that the maximum difference between the positions of the maximum size element and 0 is as large as possible.

For example computer searches with $p=11,13$ produced the following square arrays with property $S$ heuristically optimized as discussed above.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
0 & 5 & 0 & 2 & 7 & 4 & 7 & 4 & 2 & 1 & 1
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
0 & 7 & 4 & 7 & 2 & 0 & 5 & 1 & 1 & 4 & 2
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
4 & 2 & 1 & 5 & 1 & 0 & 7 & 2 & 4 & 0 & 7
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
1 & 1 & 2 & 7 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 7 & 0 & 0 & 5
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
2 & 4 & 7 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 & 0 & 4 & 7
\end{array} \\
& A 11=\begin{array}{lllllllllll}
7 & 0 & 5 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 4 & 7 & 4 & 1 & 2
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
5 & 0 & 7 & 4 & 4 & 7 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
7 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 7 & 4
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 7 & 4 & 4 & 7 & 5 & 0
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
1 & 2 & 4 & 4 & 7 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 7 & 0
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllll}
4 & 7 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 7 & 2 & 4
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
0 & 1 & 8 & 5 & 3 & 7 & 8 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 7 & 3 & 5
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
0 & 5 & 3 & 1 & 8 & 8 & 7 & 4 & 7 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 3
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
7 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 7 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 8
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
8 & 8 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 3 & 3 & 7 & 4 & 7
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
3 & 7 & 4 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 7 & 3 & 5 & 8 & 8 & 1 & 0
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
5 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 7 & 4 & 8 & 8 & 1 & 7 & 3 & 5 & 0
\end{array} \\
& A 13=\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
1 & 0 & 5 & 8 & 8 & 1 & 3 & 7 & 4 & 0 & 5 & 3 & 7 \\
4 & 7 & 3 & 7 & 3 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 8
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
4 & 8 & 8 & 7 & 3 & 5 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 8 \\
1 & 8 & 5 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 7 & 4 & 7 & 3
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
5 & 3 & 7 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 4 & 7 & 3 & 8 & 1 & 0 & 5
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
3 & 5 & 0 & 7 & 4 & 7 & 1 & 8 & 8 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 1
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
8 & 1 & 0 & 8 & 1 & 0 & 5 & 3 & 7 & 5 & 3 & 7 & 4
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{lllllllllllll}
7 & 4 & 7 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 8 & 8 & 1
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

We illustrate these ideas by constructing a difference triangle set which shows $M(12,10) \leq 892$. Let $B=\{0,3,5,16,33,37,47,55,56,62,82\}$ which is a $(120,11)$ modular Golomb ruler obtained by the Bose construction put into the form that works best. Note the differences don't contain any multiples of 12. Using $A 11$ above we obtain.

| 0 | 603 | 5 | 256 | 873 | 517 | 887 | 535 | 296 | 182 | 202 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0 | 843 | 485 | 856 | 273 | 37 | 647 | 175 | 176 | 542 | 322 |
| 480 | 243 | 125 | 616 | 153 | 37 | 887 | 295 | 536 | 62 | 922 |
| 120 | 123 | 245 | 856 | 513 | 517 | 287 | 895 | 56 | 62 | 682 |
| 240 | 483 | 845 | 256 | 33 | 157 | 167 | 655 | 56 | 542 | 922 |
| 840 | 3 | 605 | 136 | 33 | 277 | 527 | 895 | 536 | 182 | 322 |
| 600 | 3 | 845 | 496 | 513 | 877 | 47 | 295 | 176 | 302 | 202 |
| 840 | 483 | 245 | 16 | 153 | 637 | 47 | 175 | 296 | 902 | 562 |
| 240 | 123 | 125 | 16 | 273 | 877 | 527 | 535 | 896 | 662 | 82 |
| 120 | 243 | 485 | 496 | 873 | 277 | 167 | 55 | 656 | 902 | 82 |
| 480 | 843 | 5 | 136 | 633 | 157 | 287 | 55 | 896 | 302 | 562 |

Sorting the rows and translating so the first element is zero we obtain.

| 0 | 5 | 182 | 202 | 256 | 296 | 517 | 535 | 603 | 873 | 887 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 37 | 175 | 176 | 273 | 322 | 485 | 542 | 647 | 843 | 856 |
| 0 | 25 | 88 | 116 | 206 | 258 | 443 | 499 | 579 | 850 | 885 |
| 0 | 6 | 64 | 67 | 189 | 231 | 457 | 461 | 626 | 800 | 839 |
| 0 | 23 | 124 | 134 | 207 | 223 | 450 | 509 | 622 | 812 | 889 |
| 0 | 30 | 133 | 179 | 274 | 319 | 524 | 533 | 602 | 837 | 892 |
| 0 | 44 | 173 | 199 | 292 | 299 | 493 | 510 | 597 | 842 | 874 |
| 0 | 31 | 137 | 159 | 229 | 280 | 467 | 546 | 621 | 824 | 886 |
| 0 | 66 | 107 | 109 | 224 | 257 | 511 | 519 | 646 | 861 | 880 |
| 0 | 27 | 65 | 112 | 188 | 222 | 430 | 441 | 601 | 818 | 847 |
| 0 | 50 | 131 | 152 | 282 | 297 | 475 | 557 | 628 | 838 | 891 |

The differences don't include any multiples of 12 . Therefore we can add 12 times the Golomb ruler $\{0,1,4,13,28,33,47,54,64,70,72\}$ obtaining finally.

| 0 | 5 | 182 | 202 | 256 | 296 | 517 | 535 | 603 | 873 | 887 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 37 | 175 | 176 | 273 | 322 | 485 | 542 | 647 | 843 | 856 |
| 0 | 25 | 88 | 116 | 206 | 258 | 443 | 499 | 579 | 850 | 885 |
| 0 | 6 | 64 | 67 | 189 | 231 | 457 | 461 | 626 | 800 | 839 |
| 0 | 23 | 124 | 134 | 207 | 223 | 450 | 509 | 622 | 812 | 889 |
| 0 | 30 | 133 | 179 | 274 | 319 | 524 | 533 | 602 | 837 | 892 |
| 0 | 44 | 173 | 199 | 292 | 299 | 493 | 510 | 597 | 842 | 874 |
| 0 | 31 | 137 | 159 | 229 | 280 | 467 | 546 | 621 | 824 | 886 |
| 0 | 66 | 107 | 109 | 224 | 257 | 511 | 519 | 646 | 861 | 880 |
| 0 | 27 | 65 | 112 | 188 | 222 | 430 | 441 | 601 | 818 | 847 |
| 0 | 50 | 131 | 152 | 282 | 297 | 475 | 557 | 628 | 838 | 891 |
| 0 | 12 | 48 | 156 | 336 | 396 | 564 | 648 | 768 | 840 | 864 |

This is a $(12,10)$ difference triangle set with maximum element 892 which shows $M(12,10) \leq 892$.

Table 6 lists new upper bounds on $M(I, J)$ obtained by this type of construction. Exhaustive searches over all possible constructions did not appear to be feasible so the $A$ matrices were chosen heuristically as discussed above. Therefore more extensive searches might find improvements on these bounds. However I would expect any such improvements to be modest.

Difference triangle sets with no particular structure can be found by computer searches. A program for doing such searches (partial or exhaustive) was described in [9]. Additional searches using similar programs have found the bounds listed in Table 7. The searches for $M(3,8)$ and $M(3,9)$ were run by Doug Fortune using a program obtained from my website.

Table 6: Upper bounds from extended CFJ construction

| $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 10 | 9 | 631 | 12 | 9 | 746 | 13 | 11 | 1113 | 14 | 13 | 2205 |
| 11 | 8 | 532 | 12 | 10 | 892 | 13 | 12 | 1413 | 14 | 15 | 3082 |
| 11 | 9 | 672 | 12 | 11 | 1102 | 14 | 8 | 659 | 15 | 9 | 915 |
| 11 | 10 | 877 | 12 | 12 | 1402 | 14 | 9 | 906 | 15 | 11 | 1316 |
| 11 | 11 | 1097 | 13 | 8 | 604 | 14 | 10 | 998 | 15 | 12 | 1978 |
| 11 | 12 | 1392 | 13 | 9 | 755 | 14 | 11 | 1301 | 15 | 13 | 2220 |
| 12 | 8 | 589 | 13 | 10 | 989 | 14 | 12 | 1484 | 15 | 15 | 3092 |

Table 7: Upper bounds from computer search

| $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 10 | 153 | 3 | 11 | 309 | 5 | 11 | 527 | 6 | 11 | 638 |
| 2 | 12 | 244 | 4 | 6 | 94 | 5 | 12 | 660 | 6 | 12 | 797 |
| 3 | 8 | 134 | 4 | 9 | 253 | 6 | 5 | 95 | 8 | 12 | 1076 |
| 3 | 9 | 181 | 4 | 10 | 328 | 6 | 6 | 145 | 11 | 4 | 111 |
| 3 | 10 | 238 | 5 | 7 | 171 | 6 | 7 | 210 | 12 | 4 | 122 |

In some cases a modified version of this search program proved more effective. Starting with a good difference triangle set the program searches for additional good difference triangle sets by deleting some of the Golomb rulers constituting the difference triangle set and attempting to complete the difference triangle set in alternative ways. The procedure is then repeated on any additional good difference triangle sets found. Bounds found by the modified search program are listed in Table 8.

Table 8: Upper bounds from modified computer search

| $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ | $I$ | $J$ | $M(I, J)$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4 | 7 | 136 | 7 | 11 | 740 | 9 | 12 | 1213 | 13 | 5 | 214 |
| 4 | 8 | 187 | 8 | 5 | 129 | 10 | 5 | 164 | 13 | 6 | 324 |
| 5 | 6 | 119 | 8 | 6 | 197 | 10 | 6 | 248 | 13 | 7 | 464 |
| 5 | 8 | 238 | 7 | 10 | 587 | 9 | 10 | 761 | 12 | 6 | 299 |
| 5 | 9 | 317 | 8 | 7 | 282 | 9 | 11 | 956 | 12 | 7 | 431 |
| 5 | 10 | 412 | 8 | 8 | 395 | 10 | 7 | 352 | 13 | 4 | 133 |
| 6 | 8 | 288 | 8 | 9 | 521 | 10 | 8 | 497 | 14 | 5 | 231 |
| 6 | 9 | 386 | 8 | 10 | 672 | 10 | 10 | 840 | 14 | 6 | 352 |
| 6 | 10 | 492 | 8 | 11 | 844 | 10 | 11 | 1067 | 14 | 7 | 499 |
| 7 | 5 | 113 | 9 | 5 | 146 | 10 | 12 | 1348 | 15 | 4 | 154 |
| 7 | 6 | 171 | 9 | 6 | 222 | 11 | 5 | 181 | 15 | 5 | 250 |
| 7 | 7 | 251 | 9 | 7 | 318 | 11 | 7 | 393 | 15 | 6 | 374 |
| 7 | 8 | 339 | 9 | 8 | 447 | 11 | 13 | 1782 | 15 | 8 | 735 |
| 7 | 9 | 456 | 9 | 9 | 585 | 12 | 5 | 197 | 15 | 10 | 1268 |

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